

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-36 (Canceled)

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A method for dividing an analyte present in a solution ~~in a first receptacle into plural second receptacles, the analyte being fixed on magnetic particles, the method~~ comprising:

disposing the solution including the analyte fixed to magnetic particles in a first receptacle;

~~sedimentation of the magnetic particles by a~~ attracting, with a first magnetic mechanism, the magnetic particles fixed to the analyte to a bottom of the first receptacle and forming an initial residue at the bottom of the first receptacle; and

after forming the initial residue at the bottom of the first receptacle, dividing the initial residue into formation of a plurality of residues [[in]] by transporting the initial residue through channels connecting the first receptacle to the second receptacles.

Claim 38 (Canceled).

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method according to claim [[38]] 37, in which the at least first residue transported to the second receptacles is by~~ wherein the transporting uses relative displacement of a magnetic field created by a second magnetic mechanism with respect to the fluid channels.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method according to claim 39, in which each fluid channel is parallel to other fluid channels~~ wherein all of the channels are parallel to

each other, and in which relative the transporting includes displacing displacement of the
magnetic field generated by the second magnetic mechanism is parallel to a direction of the
channels.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 39, ~~in which~~
wherein the first and second magnetic mechanisms are coincident in a single entity.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 39, ~~in which~~
wherein the ~~at least first~~ initial residue is a single and linear-shaped residue, dividing the first
receptacle into two parts.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 42, ~~in which~~
wherein each ~~fluid~~ channel is located on a same side of the initial residue in a direction of
displacement of the field generated by the second magnetic mechanism.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 42, ~~in which~~
wherein the second magnetic mechanism includes a ~~long~~ linear magnet that moves ~~relatively~~
relative to the ~~fluid~~ channels.

Claims 45-47 (Canceled).

Claim 48 (Withdrawn and Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to
claim [[47]] 39, ~~in which~~ wherein the second magnetic mechanism includes a magnetic
structure with single or multiple projections, ~~free to move relative to the fluid channels.~~

Claim 49 (Canceled).

Claim 50 (Withdrawn and Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method according to claim [[38]] 37, in which~~ wherein each ~~fluid~~ channel includes a ferromagnetic strip, ~~and in which the at least first residue is moved and guided along this strip.~~

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method according to claim [[38]] 37, in which~~ wherein each second receptacle is connected to the first receptacle through a single ~~fluid~~ channel including a capillary.

Claim 52 (Canceled).

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The method according to claim 37, in which~~ wherein the dividing includes dividing the analyte quantity [[is]] into equal quantities in each second receptacle.

Claims 54-72 (Canceled).